

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 20, 2015

MEDIA ADVISORY

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**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS HEARING TO HIGHLIGHT LACK OF
WATER AND SANITATION IN POOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE U.S.**

*COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TO DEMAND URGENT ACTION BY THE OBAMA
ADMINISTRATION TO ADDRESS THE WATER AND SANITATION CRISIS*

WHAT: On October 23rd, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) will hold a hearing on the access to water and sanitation in the U.S. as a basic human right.

WHO: Representatives from a coalition of some 20 organizations whose communities lack safe and affordable water and sanitation.

WHERE: The Organization of American States, 1859 F Street, N.W. Padilha Vidal Room (TL Level) Washington, DC 20006 (livestream:
www.oas.org/en/iachr/default.asp)

WHEN: Friday, October 23rd, 2015 from 4:15-5:00 pm EST.

WHY: The United Nations has recognized access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation as a basic human right, yet in the richest country in the world millions of people are without these basic services. This public health crisis disproportionately impacts poor people and people of color.

For the first time an international human rights tribunal will take up this issue. Among the highlights of testimony to be presented:

- In cities such as Detroit, Baltimore, Boston, with high concentrations of African Americans, thousands of people have had their water service disconnected as rising water rates have made this basic resource unaffordable for poor families.
- In rural areas stretching from California to the Southwest and Deep South, contamination from mining, industry and agriculture has deprived communities of safe drinking water and sanitation and has created a public health crisis for poor Latino, black, and indigenous communities.

PRE-EVENT BRIEFINGS:

- Thursday, October 22nd 12:30-2:00pm, Georgetown Law Center - 600 New Jersey Avenue NW, McDonough 203, Washington, DC 20001;
- Friday, October 23rd 1:00-2:30 pm, United Methodist Building, Rm 1-2, 100 Maryland Ave NE, Washington DC.

Testifiers/Speakers Contact:

- Horacio Amezcuita/Colin Bailey, *San Jerardo Community Community/Environmental Justice Coalition on Water, Salinas Valley, California*, horacioamezcuita@yahoo.com, colin@ejcw.org, (916) 432-EJCW (3529)
- Edith Hood, *Red Water Pond Road Community, New Mexico*, ediehood@yahoo.com, 505-577-8438
- Maureen Taylor, *Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Detroit, MI*, (313) 729-5558, chuteh7@hotmail.com
- Marian Kramer, *Highland Park Human Rights Coalition, Highland Park, MI*, 313-471-9241
- Catherine Flowers, *Alabama Center for Rural Enterprise and Equal Justice Initiative, Lowndes County, Alabama*, CatherineFlowers@aol.com, 334-462-4849
- Bernice Johnson-Howard, *WAND, Georgia*, 706-831-2084, bernice.johnson@comcast.net
- Dorotea Manuela, *Massachusetts Global Action Color of Water Project, Boston, MA*, dorotea.manuela@gmail.com
- Jessica Lewis, *Baltimore Right to Housing Alliance*, jessica@rthabaltimore.org, 410.818.7470
- Patricia Jones, *Unitarian Universalist Service Committee*, 617-909-4557, pjones@uusc.org
- Rebecca Landy, *US Human Rights Network*, 917-509-4101, rlandy@ushrnetwork.org
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